

PRESIDENT: Would you close your debate on this, Senator DeCamp?

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, Patrick, I love you like a brother but doggone it, you know after a year and a half or two years I wish you'd make a little sense. Now listen to what you just said. You said in Hall County they are only fining them \$25. That's what I'm trying to tell you, man. They are not enforcing the law. The law is meaningless. It is a joke. It is a comedy. You stand here on other days and you say, we need education in our schools. We need these children to know these dangers. The bill has mandatory education. We've had education on the books since 1971. I wrote the gol' darn thing. I put it in there. If you aren't teaching it in your school, if you aren't explaining the dangers of some of these, then you're at fault, not Johnny D. I'm just saying that when these kids are picked up for minor in possession, for public drunkenness, for marijuana and drug abuse, that by golly, they're going to be in those classes or under some program. I'm not setting up any new programs. We've got them. We've got them, Patrick. Now just what do you want to do with the law? Do you want it first offense, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen year old, death penalty? We tried that. Life imprisonment. They had that in Texas until a couple of years ago. You know what it did? They had just as many people using marijuana in Texas, maybe a few more percentage-wise when they did the studies they did here but you know what they did have in addition? They had a whole bunch of eighteen, nineteen and twenty year old kids locked up for life in prison in Texas that was costing the state about \$25,000 a piece. Now you say they are fining them \$25 in Hall County. I agree. That's right. How much is it costing? How much does it cost? Well it depends on who you're going to believe but I'll tell you this. You can't find any study anywhere done by either the proponents, opponents, neutrals, positives, left, right that says it doesn't cost somewhere between \$500 and \$1500 to process one of these things. For God's sake, either tan your laws or make them have some meaning. I'm putting a \$100 penalty. I'm putting a system to force them to start getting some information on drug abuse. I'm putting a system that saves the state a fortune and makes it more of an incentive for the police officer to write a ticket. Now you tell me, Patrick. You've got a brother. Let's assume he's out in Neligh, Nebraska. He finds five kids in a car. Which costs more? When they know that they get that ticket it's automatic they pay. They pay or you go the other way. He knows he's going to have to go to court. He knows they are going to plead not guilty. He knows they are going to fight two or three or four or five times and when all is said and done and you've won, maybe you've convicted one or two or three, after your ceremony and cost and so on etc., then what have you really accomplished? You've finally been a victor, Pat. You've kept the kid from getting into the army or getting into college or getting into this program or that. At least do something with your laws that shows society does not approve of minors in possession. Society does not approve of drug abuse. Don't just make nonsense talk on that microphone. Give me a system that works. Give me a system that works and I'll lap it up right quick. Quit always saying what is wrong and try offering something right. That's all I'm